

BOOK REVIEW

HENRY CONNOR AND JOHN FOUNTAIN. 2009. **Plants That Poison: A New Zealand guide.** (ISBN 978-0-478-09398-8, pbk.). Manaaki Whenua Press, P.O. Box 40, Lincoln 7640, Gerald Street, Lincoln, Canterbury, New Zealand. (**Orders:** www.mwpress.co.nz or www.balogh.com (US orders), +64 3 321 9749, +64 3 321 9997 fax, 1-217 355 9413 US fax). \$NZ 29.99, \$US 45.00, 112 pp., color photos, 7 1/2" x 10".

Plants That Poison: a New Zealand Guide is a very informational no-frills type read. Reminiscent of a textbook in both text and content, this book gets down to the facts right away. Essentially a catalog of poisonous plants found in New Zealand, this read would be helpful to anyone who would like to familiarize themselves with toxic plants and how to avoid them. Being a more serious threat than most people realize, poisonous plants can be found almost everywhere, and it would be wise for one to be knowledgeable. The text is supported with a large number of pictures and is a quick and easy read—Haden Shibley, Volunteer, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 500 E 4th Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-4025, U.S.A.

From the publisher: "Written by a leading authority on poisonous plants and an expert in human poisonings, *Plants that Poison: a New Zealand Guide* is a guide to a selection of plants and mushrooms with toxic properties that can be found in New Zealand – in back yards, public gardens, school playgrounds, on roadsides and in waste ground.

With a particular focus on plants that are of concern for children, the emphasis is on safety through education, to help you understand the risks so that you can avoid them. There is advice on what to do if you think you or your child has eaten something poisonous and a section on toxic mechanisms – how the poisons act on the human body, the signs and symptoms of poisoning, and the treatment likely to be necessary.

Enlivened with historical background and interesting folklore, and comprehensively illustrated with colour photographs to aid identification, this book provides a practical and measured response to demand for information about poisonous plants in New Zealand."

"**Henry E. Connor** CNZM, MSc (Hons), DSc, FRSNZ, is a Research Associate at Landcare Research, Lincoln, Canterbury, New Zealand. **John S. Fountain** MBChB, DipMSM, DipSci, DOM, DPH, is a medical toxicologist at the National Poisons Centre, University of Otago, Dunedin, Otago, New Zealand."